(i) Health education of the troops and their families.

(ii) Surveillance of High Risk Groups such as blood donors, patients of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis patients, ante natal cases, personnel proceeding abroad in peace keeping missions and returning from there.

(iii) Hundred percent screening of all ante natal cases.

(iv) Hundred percent screening of all blood/blood products for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria.

(v) Encouraging voluntary counseling and testing.

(vi) Spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS through audio-visual means.

Suspension/court martial of senior officers

†778. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of senior officers of Defence Forces suspended/court martialled during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for suspending/court martialling these officers;

(c) whether Government have tried to ascertain the reasons for indiscipline in senior officers; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to inculcate character-building in senior officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the last two years, 3 senior officers (of the rank of Brigadier equivalent or above) of the Defence Forces, were court martialled and one officer was suspended.

(b) The said officers were court martialled for offences committed under relevant sections of the Army and Navy Acts. One officer was suspended as serious acts of omission and commission had come to the notice of competent authority.

(c) The number of cases of indiscipline are very small and are not indicative of any trend.

(d) Promotions to higher ranks are based on merit based selection wherein character qualities are given importance. The officers also undergo professional courses wherein character building traits are emphasized.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.